

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

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| COUNTRY | Rumania | REPORT NO. | [REDACTED] |
| SUBJECT | 1. Sovromgaz Chemical Plants at Copsa Mica 2. New Metal Laminates Plant, Bacau | DATE DISTR. | 10 June 1953 |
| 25X1A | | NO. OF PAGES | 6 |
| DATE OF INFO. | [REDACTED] | REQUIREMENT NO. | [REDACTED] |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | [REDACTED] | REFERENCES | [REDACTED] |

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. The Sovromgaz Soviet-Rumanian enterprise was believed to supervise a "large" number of chemical plants in the Copsa Mica (4607N-2416E) and Medias (4610N-2421E) areas, which chemically exploited the abundant natural reserves of methane gas (CH₄) in this region. This gas was considered 98% pure in its natural form and the reserves were believed practically inexhaustible. 25X1A
2. The Sovromgaz installation which [REDACTED] "formexal" plant (believed to be a trade name), a lampblack plant under construction. I do not know whether methyl alcohol or other methane series products were manufactured at the Sovromgaz installation. I believe the formaldehyde and formexal plants were built prior to World War II. [REDACTED] 25X1A

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| STATE # | X | ARMY # | X | NAVY # | X | AIR # | X | FBI | | AEC | | | | | | | |
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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(Reference is made to Enclosure A)

Point #1 Pinpoint of SOVROMGAZ installation at Copsa Mica.

#2 General location of a second lampblack plant in the Copsa Mica area.

3. Reference is made to Enclosure B, this report, Memory Sketch of SOVROMGAZ Installation.

Point #1 Wooden warehouse: Small; temporary in appearance; stored carefully packed wooden crates which I believe contained machinery. I do not recall the inscriptions on the crates.

#2 "Sonamin" factory area: Observed from the road Pt. #4. There were dense trees close to the road, and two or three small factory buildings next to the road. I do not know the products manufactured. I believe the plant was subordinate to SOVROMGAZ.

#3 Fence: Constructed of wire mesh and barbed wire; it was only partially completed along the east side of the road.

#4 Gravel road: Approximately four feet wide [sic]; lined with trees.

#5 Workers' housing area: This extended along both sides of the road. Ten attractive one-story brick homes, each containing two or three apartments, were completed. Ten to 15 other homes were under construction. This project was to relieve the housing shortage in Copsa Mica. At the time of my visit, most of the personnel commuted from Medias and from Sibiu where they lived in crowded conditions.

#6 Mess hall: One-story brick building, 30 to 40 x 10 x 10 m.

#7 Water purification basin: 10 x 3 m.; the depth is unknown to me.

#8 Water pump house: Concrete structure, 4 x 5 x 3 m., at the edge of the Tarnava River.

#9 High-tension line: I believe this carried 15,000 volts. [redacted] poles and mounted on 15-to 20-cm. long insulators. The high-tension line originated from the transformer station at Prostia 4602N-2441E. [redacted] (a small concrete building and transformer yard) from the train. It was located in a field to the north of the RR track near the village of Prostia. This high-tension line fed into the building at Point #17, this report.

#10 Lamp black factory under construction: This uncompleted factory measured 50 or 60 x 15 x 12 m.; it had brick walls, concrete column and girder supports and a steel truss roofing support; [redacted] type. The westernmost fifth of the building was two-storied for offices; the remainder was single-storied and of the [redacted]

#11 Warehouse: This building was 10 x 15 x ? m., had a concrete floor, and wooden sides.

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- #12 Railroad bed: A 150-to 200-meter-long crushed rock RR bed had been laid with RR ties and RR track next to it; I believe it was intended to be single-track.
- #13 Factory under construction: This was observed from the fire fighting station. It was 70 or 80 x 15 x ? m., had a concrete foundation and masonry work was beginning on the brick walls. There was no evidence of a steel or concrete frame. Approximately 200 workers were engaged in its construction. I was told that this was also to be a factory but the type was not specified.
- #14 Fire fighting station: This was a brick building 3 x 5 x 5 m. It did not have vehicles.
- #15 Administration building: There were two or three newly-constructed two-story administration buildings. I was in one to see a laboratory. Near the administration buildings were three wooden shacks believed to contain construction stores.
- #16 Construction and workers' shacks: This area was filled with small wooden temporary shacks used by the construction workers.
- #17 "Formexal" or Formaldehyde Plant: This building was 40 or 50 x 10 or 15 x 10 m. It had a concrete floor and brick load-bearing walls. It was built between 1930 and 1940. This plant had a complex pipe superstructure. I passed through it quickly. I saw about 10 workers and "several boilers". I have no further details. The transformer building adjoined the south side of this plant, was 15 x 10 x 5 m., had a cement floor and brick load-bearing walls. It housed a 100-200 KVA transformer and two old generators which were not functioning. It appeared to be a very primitive electrical installation.
- #18 Formaldehyde or "Formexal" Plant: I cannot specify which one of the two forementioned titles applied to this plant. I was [REDACTED] that the plants at Points #17 and 18 were the "Formexal" and Formaldehyde Plants of the project. This was 40 or 50 x 10 or 15 x 10 m., had brick load-bearing walls, a complex piping superstructure, and one large smokestack. [REDACTED]
- #19 RR Line: Standard-gauge, single-track; it was the main line between the towns of Medias and Sibiu.
- #20 RR Siding: Double end (through) arrangement; five body tracks.
- #21 Highway: It had a gravel surface, was six meters wide, and an all-weather type road. It was the main road between Medias and Sibiu.
- 2 Copsa Mica RR Station: This was a small brick building and consisted of a station master's office and waiting room.
- #23 Unloading ramp: This was 20 x 1 m. and was made of concrete; a very small warehouse adjoined it.
- #24 Gate watchman's house: This was a one-room brick house located next to the main gate, which was iron and 2½ m. high. One of the SOVRONGAZ workers was watchman.

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4. I do not know of the existence of a lampblack plant in the town of Medias; however Medias was considered one of the principal centers of the chemical industry in Rumania. In addition to the one under construction there was another lampblack plant in the Copsa Mica area. It was three kilometers southeast of the Copsa Mica RR Station. [REDACTED] station.

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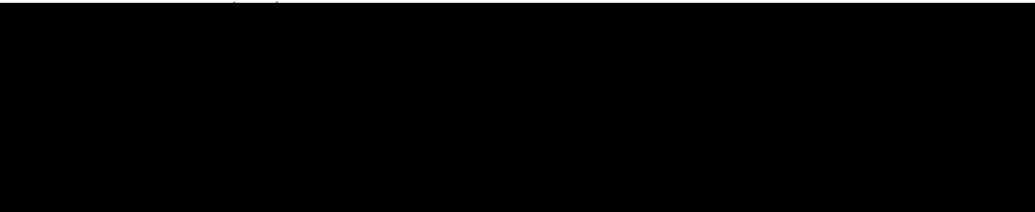
5.



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New Metal Laminates Plant

6.



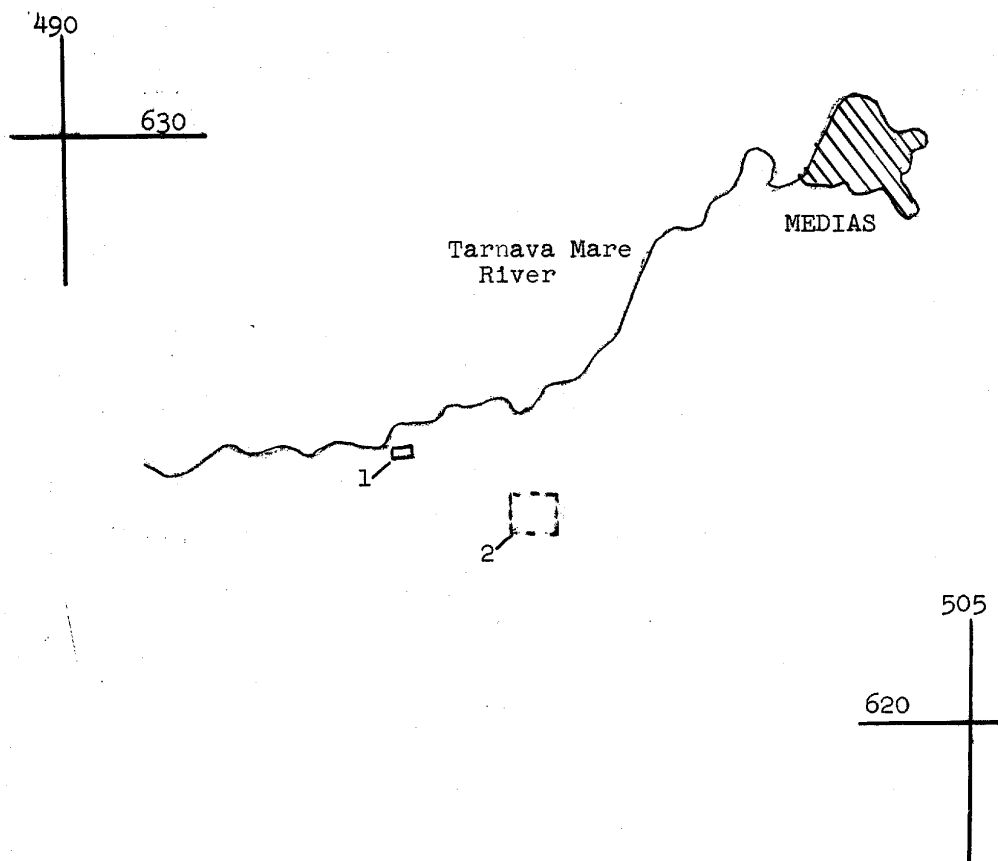
Enclosures:

- A. Overlay of Karte von Rumanien, 1:100,000, Blatt 3060, Blaj si Medias
B. Memory Sketch of SOVROMGAZ Installation at Copsa Mica

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ENCLOSURE A

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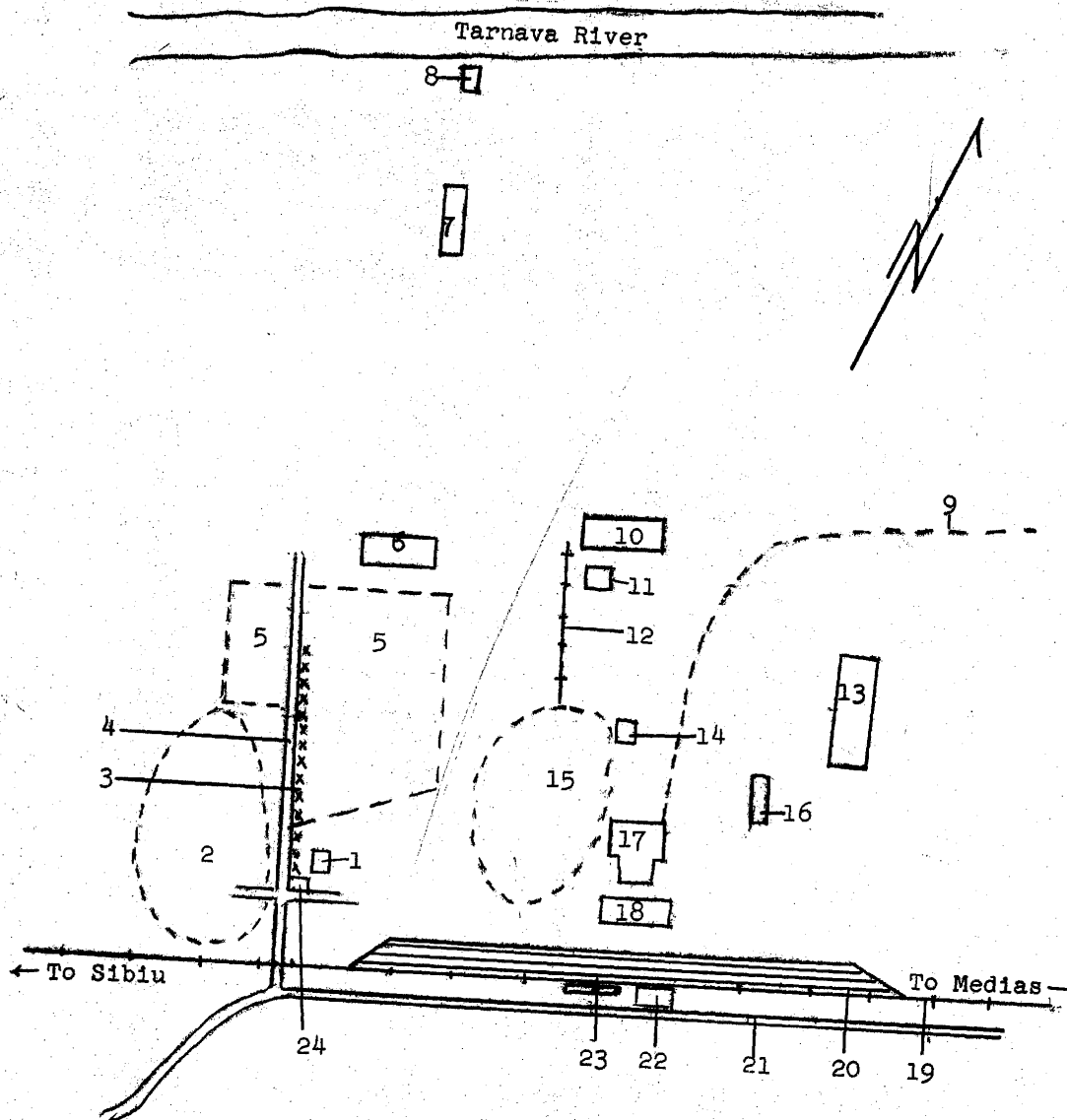


Overlay of Karte von Rumanien
1:100,000
Blatt 3060, Blaj si Medias [4610N-2421E]

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ENCLOSURE B

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Memory Sketch of SOVROMGAZ Installation
at Copsa Mica 4607N-2416E

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